

Amendments to the Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A method for making a blow-molded article, comprising the steps of:  
providing a flowable thermoplastic member in a generally tubular configuration closed at one end;

enclosing the flowable thermoplastic member in a cavity of a mold, the mold having a side wall inner surface encircling a central longitudinal axis of the mold and having a base wall inner surface adjacent the closed end of the flowable thermoplastic member;

providing a circumferentially extending groove in the side wall inner surface of the mold at a location spaced longitudinally from the base wall inner surface;

inflating the flowable thermoplastic member to cause flowable thermoplastic material to expand against and conform to the side wall and base wall inner surfaces of the mold to form an article comprising a base wall and a tubular side wall; and

heating a region of the mold adjacent the groove to a higher temperature than other portions of the mold outside said region so as to heat the flowable thermoplastic material that is blown into the groove such that the groove is substantially entirely filled by the thermoplastic material so as to form a solid flange extending radially outwardly from the side wall of the article.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the mold comprises two mold halves movable between a closed position in which the mold halves mate to form the cavity and an open position in which the mold halves are separated from each other to allow the article to be ejected from the mold, the enclosing step comprising moving the mold halves to the closed position to enclose the flowable thermoplastic member in the cavity of the mold.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of moving the mold halves to the open position following the inflating step.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of heating the region of the mold adjacent the groove is begun prior to the enclosing step and is terminated after the inflating step is completed.

7. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising terminating the heating step and then cooling the region of the mold adjacent the groove by operating a cooling system disposed locally in the mold adjacent said region.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the heating step comprises operating a heating system disposed locally in the mold adjacent said region.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the mold comprises two mold halves movable between a closed position in which the mold halves mate to form the cavity and an open position in which the mold halves are separated from each other to allow the article to be ejected from the mold, the enclosing step comprising moving the mold halves to the closed position to enclose the flowable thermoplastic member in the cavity of the mold.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of moving the mold halves to the open position following the inflating step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of operating the heating system is begun prior to the enclosing step and is terminated after the inflating step is completed.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of operating the cooling system is performed prior to the step of moving the mold halves to the open position.